

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Wildfire Mitigation, and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is East Bay Regional Park District, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605.

The funding would be used to remove dry vegetation from this urban adjacent environment and guide the conversion of flammable tree cover to a fire-resilient, drought-resistant type, such as transition from a eucalyptus plantation to native live oak woodland which are widespread, highly biodiverse, yet imperiled keystone ecosystems supporting over 300 species of wildlife.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this investment will protect habitat, water supply and water quality. With additional funding, large landowning agencies such as the Park District could collectively, annually restore functional native habitat to thousands of acres of public land. Most of these restoration projects consist of an initial large cost outlay to establish the plant community. Then, as the ecosystem becomes self-sustaining, maintenance costs decrease dramatically over a few years. With restoration funding, fuels reduction projects could not only create a fire-resilient landscape, but also bring back habitat for imperiled wildlife such as the pallid manzanita, monarch butterfly and Alameda whipsnake. In addition, these ecosystems provide climate resiliency benefits including sequestration and reduction of risk of a large-scale carbon release caused by fire.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, authorized by section 203 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 5133), as amended by Section 1234, National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

  
Member of Congress